



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## Canberra



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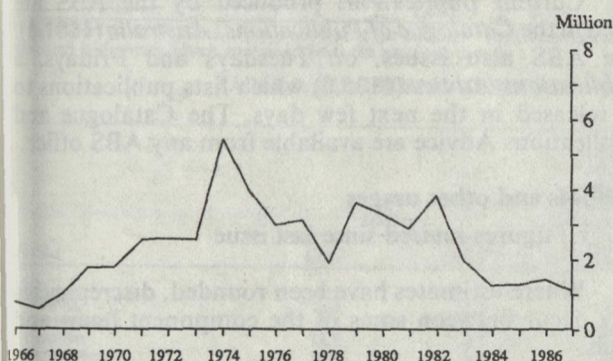
### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1987

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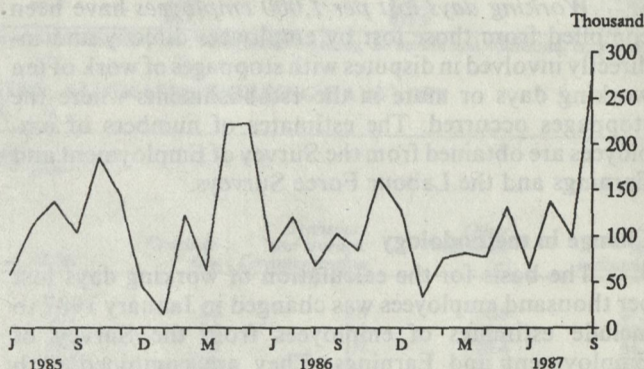
#### MAIN FEATURES

##### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA

Year ended June



June 1985 to September 1987



There was a significant increase in the number of working days lost in September 1987 — 282,600 working days were lost by 84,900 employees in 127 disputes compared with 98,800 working days lost by 52,100 employees in 122 disputes during the August 1987. This is the highest number of working days lost since August 1982 (412,600).

Of the 282,600 working days lost in September 1987, 93,200 were lost due to a dispute in the Coal mining industry; 128,500 were lost due to a number of disputes over National Wage Case second-tier claims, (mainly in the Wholesale trade and Construction industries); and 11,000 were lost in the Community services industry.

Of the 127 disputes in September 1987, 13 had more than 1,000 working days lost.

In the 12 months ended September 1987, 1,360,800 working days were lost compared with 1,387,200 and 1,246,800 working days lost in the 12 months ended September 1986 and September 1985 respectively.

For the 12 months ended September 1987, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (322) and lowest in South Australia (93).

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in all industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and Government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes

and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

##### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.



5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

#### Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

#### Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1986* (6101.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Trade Union Statistics, Australia 30 June 1986* (6323.0)

*Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986* (6325.0)

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

#### Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer print-out clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

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TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period               | Number of disputes  |          | Employees involved ('000) |          | Working days lost ('000) |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
|                      | Commenced in period | Total(a) | Newly involved(b)         | Total(a) |                          |
| 1986                 |                     |          |                           |          |                          |
| August               | 132                 | 147      | 27.6                      | 29.6     | 67.3                     |
| September            | 151                 | 171      | 53.9                      | 64.1     | 102.7                    |
| October              | 177                 | 195      | 70.6                      | 74.6     | 84.2                     |
| November             | 162                 | 185      | 49.0                      | 63.3     | 162.2                    |
| December             | 99                  | 124      | 31.9                      | 49.0     | 128.8                    |
| 1987                 |                     |          |                           |          |                          |
| January              | 91                  | 95       | 12.8                      | 15.1     | 34.2                     |
| February             | 124                 | 140      | 25.9                      | 41.8     | 76.3                     |
| March                | 148                 | 166      | 54.8                      | 63.6     | 81.5                     |
| April                | 117                 | 138      | 62.3                      | 66.3     | 77.6                     |
| May                  | 126                 | 146      | 80.3                      | 106.7    | 131.5                    |
| June                 | 126                 | 145      | 35.8                      | 41.4     | 65.2                     |
| July                 | 117                 | 135      | 49.7                      | 51.5     | 137.8                    |
| August               | 109                 | 122      | 39.5                      | 52.1     | 98.8                     |
| September            | 114                 | 127      | 60.3                      | 84.9     | 282.6                    |
| Twelve months ended— |                     |          |                           |          |                          |
| September 1985       | 1,861               | 1,880    | 624.7                     | 627.5    | 1,246.8                  |
| 1986                 | 1,727               | 1,752    | 678.1                     | 686.0    | 1,387.2                  |
| 1987                 | 1,510               | 1,528    | 572.8                     | 577.3    | 1,360.8                  |
| December 1984        | 1,958               | 1,965    | 551.1                     | 560.3    | 1,307.4                  |
| 1985                 | 1,830               | 1,845    | 552.6                     | 570.5    | 1,256.2                  |
| 1986                 | 1,680               | 1,687    | 673.7                     | 675.9    | 1,390.7                  |

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

| Period               | Mining |       | Manufacturing                           |       | Construction | Transport and storage; Communication | Other industries (a) | All industries |
|----------------------|--------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                      | Coal   | Other | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other |              |                                      |                      |                |
| 1986                 |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| August               | 5.3    | 31.6  | 7.0                                     | 11.0  | 3.3          | 2.6                                  | 6.6                  | 67.3           |
| September            | 6.8    | 11.6  | 11.8                                    | 48.1  | 7.0          | 1.1                                  | 16.3                 | 102.7          |
| October              | 18.8   | 2.7   | 19.1                                    | 18.4  | 3.2          | 1.7                                  | 20.4                 | 84.2           |
| November             | 20.1   | 8.3   | 19.4                                    | 25.5  | 10.0         | 0.8                                  | 78.2                 | 162.2          |
| December             | 12.7   | 11.5  | 4.5                                     | 13.7  | 8.7          | 1.1                                  | 76.7                 | 128.8          |
| 1987                 |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| January              | 1.0    | 13.5  | 3.8                                     | 2.7   | 6.8          | 3.1                                  | 3.3                  | 34.2           |
| February             | 30.8   | 2.4   | 5.4                                     | 17.5  | 8.0          | 2.2                                  | 10.0                 | 76.3           |
| March                | 6.7    | 4.0   | 20.8                                    | 12.2  | 26.2         | 5.1                                  | 6.5                  | 81.5           |
| April                | 15.2   | 3.7   | 27.3                                    | 10.2  | 7.9          | 5.9                                  | 7.5                  | 77.6           |
| May                  | 30.1   | 1.8   | 39.5                                    | 25.7  | 19.5         | 5.7                                  | 9.1                  | 131.5          |
| June                 | 7.3    | 4.7   | 12.4                                    | 15.1  | 15.0         | 3.0                                  | 7.7                  | 65.2           |
| July                 | 35.3   | 10.3  | 23.9                                    | 14.8  | 43.0         | 2.2                                  | 8.4                  | 137.8          |
| August               | 17.7   | 6.0   | 14.2                                    | 21.7  | 11.7         | 3.6                                  | 23.7                 | 98.8           |
| September            | 97.9   | 2.8   | 23.1                                    | 6.8   | 38.6         | 4.5                                  | 108.9                | 282.6          |
| Twelve months ended— |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| September 1985       | 234.8  | 90.9  | 152.7                                   | 203.0 | 191.0        | 134.6                                | 239.8                | 1,246.8        |
| 1986                 | 352.1  | 197.2 | 158.1                                   | 187.2 | 119.5        | 143.7                                | 229.5                | 1,387.2        |
| 1987                 | 293.7  | 71.6  | 213.4                                   | 184.4 | 198.5        | 38.9                                 | 360.4                | 1,360.8        |
| December 1984        | 131.1  | 193.2 | 144.8                                   | 249.3 | 116.3        | 150.6                                | 322.1                | 1,307.4        |
| 1985                 | 233.8  | 106.4 | 107.3                                   | 189.4 | 175.3        | 180.4                                | 263.7                | 1,256.2        |
| 1986                 | 362.0  | 179.4 | 187.4                                   | 205.3 | 117.7        | 57.6                                 | 281.4                | 1,390.7        |

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

| Period               | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A. | W.A.  | Tas. | Aust. (a) |
|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-----------|
| 1986                 |        |       |       |      |       |      |           |
| August               | 12.6   | 11.8  | 7.4   | 2.9  | 31.7  | 0.6  | 67.3      |
| September            | 33.6   | 29.5  | 18.9  | 3.1  | 13.4  | 1.5  | 102.7     |
| October              | 37.7   | 27.9  | 6.0   | 2.1  | 7.3   | 1.7  | 84.2      |
| November             | 45.2   | 81.1  | 16.5  | 4.1  | 11.1  | 3.2  | 162.2     |
| December             | 19.4   | 86.4  | 5.3   | 3.4  | 13.4  | 0.8  | 128.8     |
| 1987                 |        |       |       |      |       |      |           |
| January              | 12.7   | 3.5   | 1.3   | 0.6  | 14.4  | 0.4  | 34.2      |
| February             | 44.6   | 19.6  | 2.8   | 0.3  | 4.2   | 0.3  | 76.3      |
| March                | 41.2   | 20.9  | 2.4   | 2.2  | 11.3  | 1.3  | 81.5      |
| April                | 52.6   | 11.0  | 3.4   | 1.5  | 3.9   | 2.1  | 77.6      |
| May                  | 84.2   | 27.6  | 7.7   | 5.5  | 2.9   | 2.6  | 131.5     |
| June                 | 19.1   | 16.8  | 12.4  | 5.1  | 7.8   | 1.3  | 65.2      |
| July                 | 81.6   | 25.6  | 7.7   | 9.9  | 3.3   | 7.8  | 137.8     |
| August               | 22.1   | 150.3 | 4.1   | 5.2  | 14.7  | 2.1  | 98.8      |
| September            | 185.9  | 40.1  | 9.6   | 5.3  | 37.6  | 2.1  | 282.6     |
| Twelve months ended— |        |       |       |      |       |      |           |
| September 1985       | 489.1  | 229.8 | 345.2 | 24.6 | 104.9 | 26.5 | 1,246.8   |
| 1986                 | 593.3  | 377.3 | 186.2 | 42.1 | 134.0 | 27.0 | 1,387.2   |
| 1987                 | 646.3  | 410.9 | 79.1  | 45.2 | 131.9 | 25.6 | 1,360.8   |
| December 1984        | 660.6  | 187.5 | 236.5 | 25.5 | 119.2 | 50.5 | 1,307.4   |
| 1985                 | 398.7  | 355.9 | 336.2 | 22.5 | 92.9  | 20.7 | 1,256.2   |
| 1986                 | 598.8  | 381.8 | 173.4 | 46.2 | 143.1 | 29.2 | 1,390.7   |

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.



TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

| Period               | Mining |       | Manufacturing                           |       | Construction | Transport and storage; Communication | Other industries (b) | All industries |
|----------------------|--------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                      | Coal   | Other | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other |              |                                      |                      |                |
| 1984                 | 3,913  | 3,745 | 343                                     | 416   | 503          | 372                                  | 91                   | 248            |
| 1985                 | 6,898  | 1,931 | 255                                     | 312   | 666          | 432                                  | 71                   | 228            |
| 1986                 | 10,773 | 3,328 | 445                                     | 328   | 458          | 135                                  | 72                   | 242            |
| Twelve months ended— |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| 1985                 |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| September            | 6,947  | 1,669 | 365                                     | 336   | 732          | 324                                  | 65                   | 229            |
| 1986                 |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| August               | 11,038 | 3,454 | 374                                     | 244   | 561          | 345                                  | 58                   | 244            |
| September            | 10,479 | 3,553 | 371                                     | 302   | 466          | 336                                  | 59                   | 243            |
| October              | 10,561 | 3,562 | 407                                     | 296   | 439          | 276                                  | 38                   | 225            |
| November             | 10,950 | 3,143 | 441                                     | 312   | 437          | 143                                  | 55                   | 228            |
| December             | 10,773 | 3,328 | 445                                     | 328   | 458          | 135                                  | 72                   | 242            |
| 1987                 |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |                      |                |
| January              | 10,758 | 3,600 | 451                                     | 330   | 467          | 135                                  | 72                   | 245            |
| February             | 9,168  | 3,567 | 456                                     | 353   | 477          | 131                                  | 70                   | 237            |
| March                | 8,904  | 3,589 | 478                                     | 356   | 566          | 124                                  | 70                   | 240            |
| April                | 4,881  | 3,238 | 526                                     | 353   | 580          | 127                                  | 67                   | 215            |
| May                  | 5,103  | 2,890 | 424                                     | 363   | 453          | 113                                  | 65                   | 199            |
| June                 | 5,128  | 2,415 | 432                                     | 365   | 476          | 98                                   | 65                   | 195            |
| July r               | 5,761  | 2,012 | 474                                     | 336   | 614          | 81                                   | 63                   | 198            |
| August r             | 6,194  | 1,515 | 490                                     | 351   | 641          | 84                                   | 68                   | 204            |
| September            | 9,150  | 1,344 | 519                                     | 286   | 765          | 92                                   | 91                   | 235            |

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

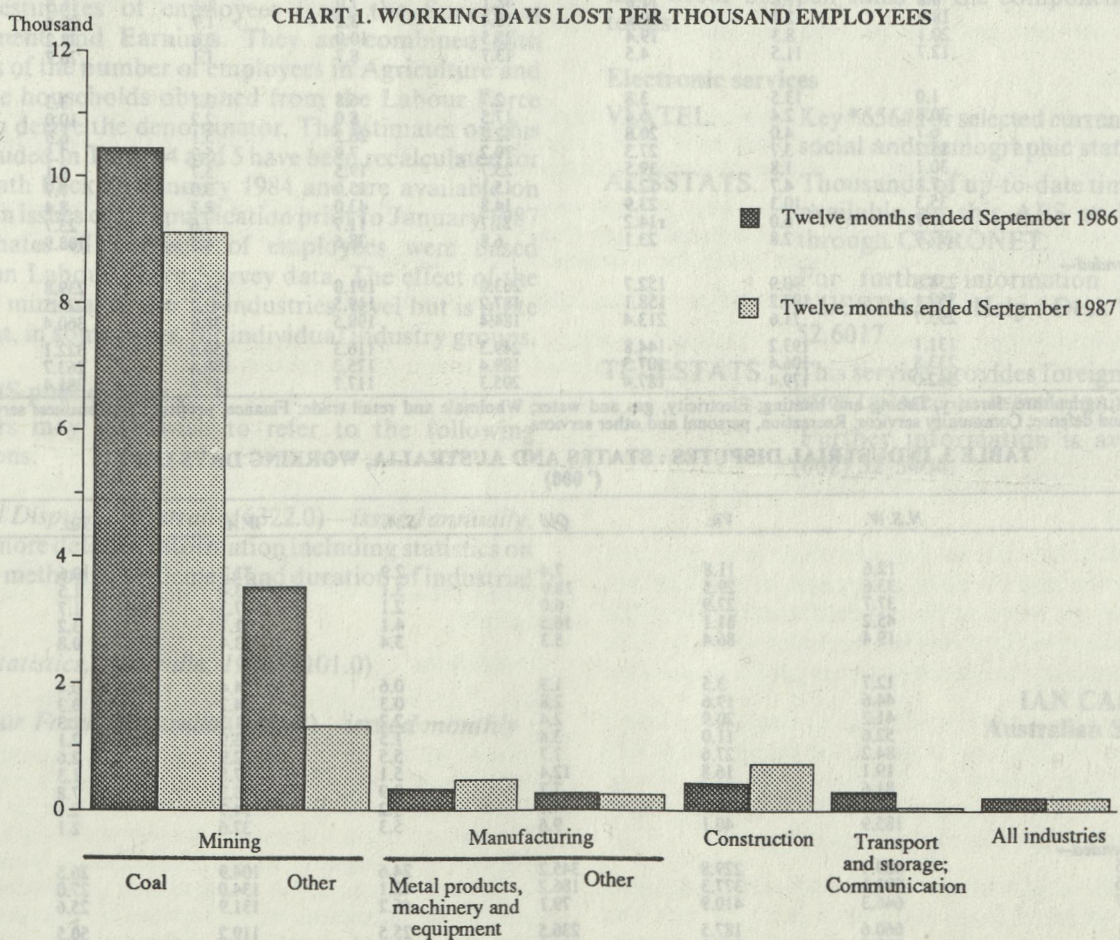




TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

| Period               | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Aust.(b) |
|----------------------|--------|------|-----|------|------|------|----------|
| 1984                 | 357    | 132  | 302 | 55   | 256  | 350  | 248      |
| 1985                 | 209    | 236  | 411 | 47   | 187  | 138  | 228      |
| 1986                 | 304    | 240  | 207 | 95   | 272  | 190  | 242      |
| Twelve months ended— |        |      |     |      |      |      |          |
| 1985                 |        |      |     |      |      |      |          |
| September            | 260    | 154  | 426 | 52   | 215  | 179  | 229      |
| 1986                 |        |      |     |      |      |      |          |
| August               | 305    | 226  | 259 | 86   | 245  | 171  | 244      |
| September            | 303    | 239  | 223 | 87   | 257  | 176  | 243      |
| October              | 299    | 180  | 221 | 85   | 256  | 179  | 225      |
| November             | 306    | 191  | 206 | 92   | 253  | 194  | 228      |
| December             | 304    | 240  | 207 | 95   | 272  | 190  | 242      |
| 1987                 |        |      |     |      |      |      |          |
| January              | 307    | 239  | 208 | 95   | 295  | 186  | 245      |
| February             | 288    | 247  | 187 | 92   | 291  | 176  | 237      |
| March                | 290    | 252  | 186 | 91   | 303  | 179  | 240      |
| April                | 255    | 246  | 121 | 91   | 271  | 190  | 215      |
| May                  | 251    | 220  | 114 | 61   | 241  | 161  | 199      |
| June                 | 232    | 222  | 125 | 70   | 249  | 118  | 195      |
| July r               | 242    | 222  | 112 | 83   | 238  | 154  | 198      |
| August r             | 247    | 247  | 108 | 89   | 206  | 164  | 204      |
| September            | 322    | 253  | 97  | 93   | 252  | 169  | 235      |

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

